



Universidad de Valladolid

Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Grado en Estudios Ingleses

On the legal translation of the TV series *How to Get Away with Murder*

Ainara Hernández Sánchez

Tutora: Qianting Yuan

Departamento de Filología Inglesa

Curso: 2022-2023

ABSTRACT

The use of legal language has traditionally been limited to professional settings. However, with the increasing popularity of legal dramas, this language has been exposed to the general public. The aim of this study is to analyze and evaluate the translation from English to Spanish of the legal language used in season one of the TV series *How to Get Away with Murder*. A total of 17 examples have been extracted, classified, analyzed and evaluated based on the translation techniques applied and the contexts in which they appear. The results reveal that, although the translation has not been as accurate as expected in some cases, the meaning of the original message has been maintained. Moreover, the audience's understanding is prioritized over the preciseness of the translation. In other words, the translation has been realized with the aim of conveying the original message as closely as possible considering the audience's knowledge.

Keywords: legal English, legal Spanish, audiovisual translation, translation technique, dubbing.

RESUMEN

El uso del lenguaje jurídico se ha limitado tradicionalmente al ámbito profesional. Sin embargo, con la creciente popularidad de los dramas jurídicos, este lenguaje ha quedado expuesto al público general. El objetivo de este estudio es analizar y evaluar la traducción del inglés al español del lenguaje jurídico utilizado en la primera temporada de la serie de televisión *How to Get Away with Murder*. Se han extraído, clasificado, analizado y evaluado un total de 17 ejemplos en función de las técnicas de traducción aplicadas y de los contextos en los que aparecen. Los resultados muestran que en algunos casos las traducciones no han sido todo lo precisas que cabría esperar, se ha mantenido el significado del mensaje original. Además, se ha dado prioridad a la comprensión del público por encima de la precisión de la traducción. En otras palabras, la traducción se ha realizado con el objetivo de transmitir el mensaje original lo más fiel posible teniendo en cuenta los conocimientos de la audiencia.

Palabras clave: inglés jurídico, español jurídico, traducción audiovisual, técnicas de traducción, doblaje.

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	6
2.	Theoretical background	7
2.1.	Legal language as a specialized language	7
2.1.1.	Main characteristics of legal English and Spanish.....	8
2.1.1.1.	Legal English	8
2.1.1.2.	Legal Spanish.....	11
2.1.1.3.	Comparison and contrast of legal English and Spanish.....	15
2.1.2.	Legal translation.....	16
2.2.	A theoretical account of audiovisual translation.....	18
2.2.1.	Definition of audiovisual translation.....	17
2.2.2.	Audiovisual translation modalities.....	18
2.3.	Challenges and potential difficulties of legal translation in audiovisual materials and possible solutions.....	18
3.	Methodology.....	20
4.	Results	21
4.1.	Classification according to the strategy applied	25
4.2.	The application of different translation techniques in different contexts.....	32
4.2.1.	The same term translated into different ways.....	32
4.2.2.	Different terms translated in the same word.....	34
5.	Discussion.....	33
6.	Conclusions.....	36
	References	37

List of tables

Table 1. An example of the manual annotation of cases.....	20
Table 2. Model table for each technique applied.....	21
Table 3. Examples of literal translation.....	22
Table 4. Examples of amplification.....	23
Table 5. Examples of reduction.....	24
Table 6. Examples of modulation.....	25
Table 7. Examples of transposition.....	25
Table 8. Examples of adaptation.....	26
Table 9. Examples of description.....	27
Table 10. Examples of generalization.....	28
Table 11. The noun “prosecution” in different contexts.....	28
Table 12. The noun “abogado/a” in different contexts.....	30
Table 13. The verb “declarar” in different contexts.....	31
Table 14. The noun “prueba” in different contexts.....	32

1. Introduction

The use of legal language has traditionally been limited to professional and formal settings. However, with the increasing popularity of lawyer shows and legal dramas, this language has been exposed to the general public who do not necessarily have expert knowledge of legal issues. The present undergraduate study focuses on the analysis of the translation of the legal language used in the American TV series *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes, et al., 2014-2019) which is about the life of Annalise Keating, a reputable and prestigious attorney who gets involved in a string of legal disputes promoted by five of her law students. More specifically, this study aims to analyze and evaluate how legal translation, a subtype of specialized translation, has been carried out from English into Spanish in the dubbing of audiovisual materials whose target audience is the general public.

It is important to point out that the present study only deals with the translation of the legal language used in this TV series and not the translation of the TV series as a whole.

The data under analysis in this study has been manually selected and extracted from the first season of the series under discussion. They are then classified, analyzed and evaluated by taking two factors into consideration, namely, the translation technique applied in each case and the contexts in which these translation techniques are applied.

The results of the present research work have revealed the most common appropriate translation techniques applied in the audiovisual materials, given the restrictions and unique characteristics that these materials have: (a) the target audience is the general public and therefore, does not necessarily have previous knowledge concerning legal issues; (b) the specific restrictions that this audiovisual modality implies, i.e., in dubbing there must be synchronization of the lips and body movements of the characters, which will influence the translations.

What can be concluded in the present study is that, although the translation in the TV series has not been as accurate as expected in some cases, the meaning of the original message has been maintained. Moreover, the audience's understanding is prioritized over the preciseness of the translation. In other words, the translation has

been carried out with the aim of conveying the original message as closely as possible taking into consideration the audience's knowledge.

The present undergraduate thesis is structured as follows. Section 2 provides a theoretical background of the key concepts involved in the present study: section 2.1 deals with the definition of legal language and explores its characteristics (section 2.1.1) with special foci on the two languages under analysis, i.e., English as the source language (SL) (section 2.1.1.1) and Spanish as the target language (TL) (section 2.1.1.2) as well as the similarities and differences between these two languages (section 2.1.1.3); section 2.1.2 presents the translation techniques commonly applied in legal contexts; section 2.2 deals with the definition audiovisual translation (section 2.2.1) and its main modalities (section 2.2.2); section 2.3 explores the potential difficulties of legal translation in audiovisual materials. Section 3 describes the methodology which the present study has adopted. In Section 4 the results are illustrated: section 4.1 deals with the analysis of the different translation techniques applied; section 4.2 highlights the cases in which the same term in the SL has been translated in different ways in the TL (section 4.2.1) and the cases in which different terms in the SL have been translated into the same word in the TL (section 4.2.2). Section 5 presents a more in-depth discussion of the cases previously presented in section 4. Finally, the findings obtained in this study will be summarized and concluded in section 6.

2. Theoretical background

2.1. Legal language as a specialized language

The objective of the present study is to analyze and evaluate the translation from English into Spanish of the legal language used in the TV series *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes et al., 2014-2019). Therefore, it is important to first define what legal language is and explore its features in both the SL and the TL in order to be able to extract the data and then conduct the analysis.

Legal language is a type of “specialized language”, also called “language for specific purposes” (LSP) which is a term for the different linguistic variants used in professional settings (Gunnarsson, 1997). LSP interacts constantly with the general language though it distinguishes itself from the latter by involving the outcome of the interaction between what is known as general or natural language and specialized and

specific terminology (Popova, 2014). In other words, LSP is composed of all those linguistic resources that characterize a certain field or industry. These types of resources are usually found in dictionaries that are compiled with the purpose of being used in these specific fields such as medicine, technology, law, bureaucracy, business, etc. (Popova, 2014; Morales, 2004).

As a type of specialized language, legal language shares the characteristics addressed in the previous paragraph. More specifically, it is a standardized language based on logical principles while it is differentiated from the general language in terms of vocabulary, morphological formation, semantics and syntax, among other aspects (Gupta, 2020).

One of the main features that makes legal language different from other specialized languages is the way in which words are combined in the composition of texts for lawsuits. The reason why these texts are written in a complex way is to make it complicated to be understood by people outside this legal field, and therefore, they must resort to the services of these legal professionals (Lakshmi, 2018). This type of language is used by different professionals that are related to the field of law, including not only lawyers and judges but also counsels or legislative drafters. Besides, legal language is used in different settings which include documents of application of the law (e.g., testaments, contracts or deeds), normative texts (e.g., decrees or acts), doctrinal texts (e.g., textbooks that explain the law), judicial texts (e.g., court judgements gathered in law reports), legal dictionaries and informative texts (e.g., legal magazines) (Gámez & Cuñado, 2019).

2.1.1. Main characteristics of Legal Language in English and Spanish

This section provides a comparison and contrast of the main features of Legal language in English, the ST and in Spanish, the TL under analysis. As previously mentioned, LSP has specific features that distinguish it from the natural language. The comparison and contrast in this section will be conducted with two different foci: first the lexical and semantic features will be discussed and then, the syntactical and morphological features will be analyzed.

2.1.1.1. Legal English

From the lexico-semantic perspective, regarding the origin and nature of the words, legal English is mainly composed of archaisms that are borrowings of other languages, being Latin the most frequent source. These Latinisms can either be translated into English or left in their original form. The criteria which determine whether Latinisms should be translated or not are established according to the standard practice implemented by members of the legal community. However, Latin is not the only language from which many words are taken, there are also words and expressions that have French or Norman origin, which is the result of the Norman Invasion (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

Formalism and the ritual use of specific terms and expressions is also present in legal English (Orts, 2015). There is a universal inclination towards rigidity and formality in the syntactical constructions in the legal discourse, which will be discussed later. In order to achieve such rigidity and formality, however, we also find the use of archaic prepositional adverbs. These adverbs are formed from “here”, “there” and “where” which are simple deictics. Some examples are *whereof*, *thereunder* or *hereinbelow* (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

Moreover, the use of “doublets” and “triplets” which are terms that refer to the combination of two or three synonyms that makes the sentence redundant, is particularly common in this legal English. An example of this type of word combinations is *give, devise and bequeath*, as shown in (1).

- (1) I *give, devise, bequeath* all my real and personal estate of whatsoever nature and wheresoever situate to my Trustees.

(Gámez & Cuñado, 2019)

Other examples of the use of “doublets” and “triplets” are *each and every, unless and until* or *rest, residue and remainder* (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

Although technical and specific vocabulary is frequently found in LSP, legal English also has common words that have uncommon meanings. An example of this is the word *cloud* which loses its original meaning (i.e., a mass of condensed water), and turns into a synonym of potential defect as we can see in *cloud on title* which is defined

as an outstanding encumbrance which may affect the title of a particular estate (Jowers, 2021).

Another lexical-semantic feature of legal English is the use of performative verbs. These verbs, also called speech acts, function as the core of legal utterances and declarative statements. Moreover, they correspond to an intent-conveying action (Nordquist, 2020). A case in point which is very usual to be found at the beginning of trials is seen in (2)

(2) Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, the whole truth and
nothing but the truth?

(Alcaraz et al., 2014)

Finally, although legal language is strictly formal, there are changes of register. The purpose of this is to avoid rough words that can be offensive in situations that have relation with the harshest and most unpleasant areas of illicit and criminal activity. Euphemisms play a key role in such situations, e.g. sexual aggressions. In addition, their employment can be also seen in expressions related to God or the divine as can be seen in (3).

(3) Standing mute by visitation of God.

(Alcaraz et al., 2014, p.13)

Example (3) refers to the defendant being unable to speak due to a disability, either physical or mental (Alcaraz et al., 2014, p. 13). This expression is used when the defendant declines to answer the accusation and the jury has to decide the reason why the defendant refuses to declare.

From the morphosyntactic perspective, the syntax and structure of legal English is also characterized by archaism as it also uses a formal register and archaic diction. As mentioned previously, there is a universal inclination towards rigidity and formality in the syntactical constructions in the legal discourse (Alcaraz et al., 2014). Traditional legal English is made up of legal terminology structured in an inconsistent order. This specific word order has been influenced by Latin and French. As a result, legal English often

includes sentences of great length and are grammatically complex (Bhatia, 2010) which are hierarchically ordered in dependent clauses (Wiredu, 2016). Such length and the complexity of the sentences makes it possible to collect a lot of information and, in turn, to classify such information.

Moreover, another syntactic feature that characterizes legal English is the use of passive voice to achieve its impersonal style. This is in fact similar to its use in general language, when the speaker does not want to focus on the person or object that is performing the action but on the person or object that experiences it (Šarčević, 1997). Another way to achieve such impersonal style in legal English is the use of the third person, both singular and plural (e.g., *everyone, every person*, etc.) as the subject of the sentence. By combining these two language features, impartiality and authority is established since speaking in third person makes the sentence not to be addressed to anyone in particular, that is to say, it is spoken in a generalized way (Williams, 2004).

To sum up, legal English distinguishes itself from general English in semantics, syntax, morphology and vocabulary, full of technical terms. We will now move on to the features of legal Spanish, the TL of the translations that this research project is interested in.

2.1.1.2. Legal Spanish

From the lexico-semantic point of view, legal Spanish clearly shows a particular taste for high-flown and archaic terms. High-flown refers to the words or constructions that are so sophisticated and cultured that makes legal Spanish to be an excessively ornamented language (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

Besides, many terms in legal Spanish are taken from other languages, being Latin the most common one. On the one hand, there are pure Latinisms that maintain their original form and, on the other hand, some words have evolved from Latin. The presence of Latin prefixes in many words of this specialized language is common such as *ab-* (e.g., *abdicar, absolver*) *sub-* (e.g., *subarrendar, subsidio*) *ex-* (e.g., *exculpar, exhorto*). Apart from Latin, borrowings from other languages are also found. There are terms taken from Greek, which is called Hellenisms and from Arabic. Moreover, there are also words belonging to modern languages such as Galician and English. Some examples of these terms are *amnistia, anatocismo, sinalagmático* (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

The use of stereotyped formulas is another lexical feature found in legal Spanish which refers to the use of a fixed expression that is repeated without suffering any kind of variation. (Alcaraz et al., 2014), as exemplified in (4).

- (4) *Que estimando como estimo en parte la demanda interpuesta por el procurador don V.C.H. en nombre de xxx contra yyy, representando por el procurador don M.L.T., debo acordar y acuerdo.* (“Considering the claim filed by attorney Mr. V.C.H. on behalf of xxx against yyy, represented by attorney Mr. M.L.T., I must agree and agree that”)

(Alcaraz et al., 2014, p. 25)

This is a clear example of two stereotyped formulas that belong to a judgment that took place in Madrid. These type of expressions are stereotyped as they are repeated without being varied and do not even contribute to the meaning of the sentence in question.

The taste for the archaic and the high-flown in addition to the tendency towards the use of stereotyped formulas are balanced by the boldness in the creation of new terms. This feature refers to the facility with which new terms or even expressions are generated by the Spanish Legal Language as seen in example (5) (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

- (5) El derecho a la prestación de alimentos entre parientes habrá de regularse por la ley nacional común del *alimentista* y del *alimentante*. (“The right to maintenance between relatives shall be governed by the common national law of the *maintenance provider* and the *maintenance feeder*.”)

(Alcaraz et al., 2014, p. 27)

The terms *alimentista* and *alimentante* are applied in the law field, the former, refers to the person who is granted the right to receive food from another party and the latter refers to the person that has the right to claim the provision of food from what is called “the maintenance feeder”. These two examples show the facility of creation of new terms that has been aforementioned.

A shared characteristic of Spanish legal language and other LSPs is lexical redundancy. Spanish legal texts tend to be written with many synonyms or words with similar connotations in order to specify, refine or clarify the meaning of a particular lexicon (Alcaraz et al., 2014). In other words, synonymy and polysemy are two linguistic phenomena that can be found in legal Spanish. This unnecessary repetition can be seen in (6).

(6) Los innumerables preceptos acertados de la Ley de 1881, *la ingente jurisprudencia y doctrina* generada por ella, los muchos *informes y sugerencias* recibidos de distintos *órganos y entidades*, así como de *profesionales y expertos prestigiosos*, has sido elementos de gran valor e interés. (“The innumerable successful precepts of the Law of 1881, *the enormous jurisprudence and doctrine* generated by it, the many *reports and suggestions* received from different bodies and entities, as well as from *prestigious professionals and experts*, have been elements of great value and interest”).

(Alcaraz et al., 2014, p. 28-29)

As can be seen in example (6), this sentence is redundant since there are many terms that do not actually provide new information. The use of “couplets” and the “triplets” in this case results in greater sentence length and higher structural complexity.

In addition, legal Spanish is also characterized by a tendency toward nominalization, which refers to the process by which a sentence is transformed into a nominal syntagm or the process by which nouns are created from other different lexical categories such as verbs (Alcaraz et al., 2014). The reason why nominalization takes place in legal Spanish is due to the fact that this technique allows the introduction of varied words and expressions that could contribute to avoiding the repetition of terms. As for the creation of new terms, it is mostly carried out by the addition of the suffixes *-idad* (e.g., *prolijidad, veracidad*), *-miento* (e.g., *establecimiento, aprovisionamiento*), *-ción* (e.g., *ejecución, determinación*), among others, as can be seen in (7) (Alcaraz et al., 2014: 29).

(7) El empresario procederá a *descontar y retener* [...] (“The employer will proceed to *deduct and retain*”)-

(Alcaraz et al., 2014, p. 30)

In (7), the nominalization has taken place at the end of the sentence where *descontar* and *retener* appear instead of the corresponding verbs *descontará* and *retendrá* which will also make the preceding verb *procederá* unnecessary. Again, this technique contributes to a bigger use of words and therefore, to the creation of longer sentences.

Regarding the syntax and morphology, it is very frequent to see the use of the ablative absolute in legal Spanish (Orts, 2015). The ablative constructions come from the Latin language and are defined as expressions that contain an implied adverbial subordinate sentence that can be either enclosed by commas or by dashes as can be seen in example (8).

(8) Observadas las prescripciones legales sobre control de la conformidad – *previa información al acusado, de las consecuencias y prestada libremente* – se dictó [...]. (“Having observed the legal requirements on compliance control – *after informing the defendant of the consequences and freely given* – it was dictated [...].”)

(Pérez, 2020)

In example (8), the adverbial subordinate sentence that corresponds to the ablative absolute use is enclosed by dashes. As for the type of adverbial subordinate sentence, the sentence that is in italics corresponds to the adverbial subordinate sentences of time.

Another main feature related to the syntax of legal Spanish is the excessive use of gerund forms. This results in sentences that are overly loaded and sometimes complicated to understand or even ungrammatical constructions, as example (9) shows (Alcaraz et al., 2014).

(9) [...] *sentando* los hechos y fundamentos de derecho que estimó pertinentes y *terminando suplicando* se dictara una sentencia por la que se estime el recurso, con imposición de cosas a la demandada; dado traslado de la demanda a la parte

demandada de la Administración para que la contestase, evacuó dicho trámite *interesando* se dictara una sentencia desestimatoria del recurso, con imposición de costas a la parte actora. (“*stating* the facts and legal grounds it considered pertinent and *ending by requesting* that a judgment be issued upholding the appeal, with the defendant being ordered to pay the costs; the defendant, the Administration, having been given notice of the claim so that it could answer it, filed its response, *requesting* that a judgment dismissing the appeal be issued, with the plaintiff being ordered to pay the costs.”)

(Pérez, 2020)

In example (9), the use of gerund of the verb *terminar* makes the sentence difficult to follow since the correct structure would be *terminó suplicando*, i.e., the use of the past simple instead of the gerund. Similarly, the use of gerund of the verb *interesar* is also not commonly found and would have been substituted by *con el fin de que* (“with the purpose of”) in general Spanish.

Finally, legal Spanish is characterized by the frequent use of passive sentences. Among the different passive constructions, the most commonly used is the reflexive passive (i.e., constructions with “*se*”), as seen in example (10).

(10) Y debe rechazarse la pretendida causa de inadmisibilidad, ya que lo que *se impugna* por el actor es el acuerdo de la Corporación, que estima no es ajustado a Derecho. (“And the alleged ground of inadmissibility must be rejected, since *what is being challenged* by the plaintiff is the resolution of the Corporation, which he considers is not in accordance with the law.”)

(Aranzadi, 1970, p. 2064).

This allows the speaker to topicalize or put the focus on the object of the action. Although there may be times when it is used because the agent of the action is unknown, in most cases passives are used to narrate an event as objectively as possible. Since no one is involved, the agent of the action takes a back seat, thus downplaying the importance of who did it and giving it to what was done (Ricós, 1998).

2.1.1.3. Comparison and contrast of legal English and Spanish

In terms of lexis and semantics, both legal English and legal Spanish have words that are taken from other languages, being Latin and French the most common ones though, in legal Spanish there is more variety of foreign words. Archaism is also a shared feature, structures and terminology are archaic and stereotyped. Another feature that these two languages have in common is the redundancy that characterizes the legal texts, which makes it difficult to understand them if a legal professional is not present and that is also related to the use of couplets and triplets. That is, as a consequence of the use of many couplets and triplets the sentences are more redundant, as these types of terms do not provide any new information to what has been said before.

Regarding syntax, complex structures, mostly due to the use of passives, are found in both languages.

In conclusion, even though the two legal systems in question may seem to be different, the fact that they share most of their features makes these two languages more similar than could be expected.

2.1.2. Legal translation

The concept of translation is defined as the mental process by which a particular linguistic discourse is transferred from one language into another. This process is about substituting the linguistic units belonging to one language (i.e., the SL) with their equivalents in a different language (i.e., the TL). Therefore, the concept of translation refers to any method or process through which the meaning of certain information, written in its SL, is transmitted and substituted into the TL (e.g., Foster, 1958; Ghazala, 1995; Catford, 1995).

The data under analysis in this study come from a TV series that belongs to the legal genre. Therefore, giving a definition of what legal translation refers to is necessary. Legal translation is defined as the linguistic process followed to convert certain legal discourse acts written in the SL into their equivalents in the TL (Galdia, 2017). Due to the fact that there are no specific translation techniques that are exclusive to this type of translation, legal translators usually apply and adapt the general translation techniques to

the translation of legal texts (e.g., Vinay and Darbelnet, 1995; Molina & Hurtado Albir, 2002; Wuryantoro et al., 2014; Volf, 2020). The main techniques include the following:

- **Literal translation:** This is a word-for-word translation. The vocabulary, the sentence structure as well as the style of the SL are maintained in the TL. This technique is only possible when the SL and the TL are very close to each other.
- **Loan translation or calque:** This is the literal translation of a foreign word or phrase from the SL into the TL; it can be lexical or structural.
- **Amplification:** This technique consists of introducing details in the TL that are not formulated in the SL by using a bigger number of words in order to achieve a better understanding and comprehension of the translated text.
- **Reduction:** This is the opposite to amplification, which refers to the act of suppressing an information item of the SL in the TL.
- **Borrowing:** A word or expression is taken straightly from the SL into the TL. The borrowing can be “pure”, which means that the word or expression has not been modified, or “naturalized” which means that its spelling has been modified to fit the spelling rules in the TL.
- **Modulation:** This technique implies a change of point of view, focus or cognitive category in relation to the SL in the TL in order to maintain naturalness of the message; it can be lexical or structural.
- **Transposition:** This technique refers to the substitution of one grammatical category for another as long as the meaning of what is being translated can be preserved.
- **Adaptation:** This technique means to replace a cultural element in the SL with one that the target culture recognizes, accepts and allows.
- **Description:** This technique refers to the act of replacing a term or expression found in the SL by a description of its form and/or function in the TL in order to avoid misunderstandings.
- **Compensation:** This technique consists of placing a particular SL element in a different location in the TL because of the linguistic limitations of the TL.
- **Generalization:** This technique refers to the use of a more general or neutral term in the TL in order to achieve a better understanding of the reader.
- **Particularization:** This technique is the opposite to generalization. It refers to the use of a more precise or concrete term in the TL.

The application of these techniques in the translation of the TV series under analysis will be illustrated and analyzed in section 4.1.

2.2. A theoretical account of Audiovisual Translation

2.2.1. Definition of Audiovisual Translation

In the present study, a specific type of translation, namely, audiovisual translation, is under investigation. According to the study carried out by Gottlieb (1997), two different modalities of translation should be distinguished regarding the channel in which the discourse is expressed: translations that involve printed texts and translations that deal with audiovisual texts, the latter being that focus of the present study. Moreover, according to the communicative channels that interact with each other, the texts involved in translations can be divided into monosemiotic, e.g., such as books, documents, and polysemiatic, e.g., such as movies, series, TV programs (Gottlieb, 1997).

Audiovisual translation refers to the linguistic process by which an audiovisual text is transcribed from one language (i.e., SL) into another language (i.e., TL). An audiovisual text is understood as any set of information that is transmitted through any audiovisual media, such as the acoustic and visual media or channel. This type of translation can be seen in movies, video games, TV programs, advertisements, among others.

2.2.2. Audiovisual translation modalities

There are several modalities of carrying out this type of translation. In this section, the two main modalities, namely subtitling and dubbing, will be discussed.

Subtitling belongs to the group of captioning procedures which includes the processes by which a set of information is transferred to a written text (Lertola, 2019). It is a process that consists of introducing either the translation of the text or the reproduction of the dialogue together with insertions, if any (Chaume, 2013).

On the other hand, dubbing belongs to the revoicing group which encompasses all the audiovisual translation processes that result in oral translation are included (Lertola, 2019). Specifically, dubbing, which is the target modality under analysis, is defined as the replacement of the original dialogue with an oral translation in a language other than the SL (Chaume, 2013). Such oral replacement of the SL by the TL should achieve

synchronization which is defined as “the replacement of the original speech by a voice-track which is a faithful translation of the original speech and which attempts to reproduce the timing, phrasing and lip movements of the original” (Agost, 1999, p. 59).

2.3. Challenges and potential difficulties of legal translation in audiovisual materials and possible solutions

As a matter of fact, “there is no “universal theory” for legal translation in audiovisual materials. However, several existing translation theories could provide an overall organized and structured set of core principles and methods to guarantee a good translation” (Jin & Nida, 2006, p. 7). On the other hand, Šarčević remarks that many translation theorists have often made fallacious affirmations and have even failed when identifying the specific communicative purpose of legal texts.

As can be seen in section 2.1, legal translation is not only a matter of specific vocabulary; there are many more elements involved in this process. In other words, even though the translator’s aim is to maintain and conserve the letter of the law, legal translation is not just about transcoding from the SL into the TL but in fact, the translation of the given legal system (i.e., the legal system in the SL) into the target legal system (i.e., the legal system in the TL) (Šarčević, 1997).

Therefore, the main task of the translator is to be able to deal with the incongruencies and differences that can be found within the two legal systems that are involved in the translation in question.

In order to achieve such a task, there are a lot of challenges and potential difficulties that translators have to face when translating a legal text from English into Spanish. According to Alcaraz and Hughes (2002), the obstacles that the translator has to face are not only linguistic but also sociolinguistic, as there are two legal systems involved. The translator is aware of the fact that he will have to deal with different ways of reasoning and foreign perspectives of the subject under discussion and has to convert and adapt the terminology and syntax in the SL the best way into the TL (Alcaraz et al., 2014). Therefore, we can conclude that the main challenge that a legal translator has to face is the “terminological incongruency”, which means that the translator has to deal with terms in the SL that do not find their correspondence in the target legal system which

could result from the fact that the concepts that these terms refer do not exist in the target legal system (Soriano, 2002).

When finding an equivalent in the target language is not possible for the translator, three subsidiary solutions can usually be applied (Šarčević, 1997): (a) preserving the original terms and adding some extra information if needed, (b) paraphrasing the term that cannot be translated by a description of the meaning in the original language and (c) using neologisms which are newly created words or expressions that are not actually regarding belonging to the vocabulary of the language in question.

To conclude, the translator has several commands when carrying out a legal translation. The first thing is to identify whether the SL and TL share similar legal systems or not. If not, terminologically speaking, the translator should seek to find their equivalents in the TL for the specific terms. If this is not possible, other solutions such as maintenance of the original terms complemented by extra information, paragraph or use of neologisms should be applied.

3. Methodology

This section provides a description of the methodology used to carry out the analysis and to present and interpret the results.

The TV series *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes, et al., 2014-2019) has a total of six seasons of 15 episodes each. Due to time constraints, only the first season will be analyzed. These first 15 episodes of the series have a duration of 43 minutes each.

Firstly, English subtitles and original speech have been verified to correspond to each other. Secondly, since no translated scripts in Spanish of the series are available, the Spanish dubbing has been manually dictated. The data are selected and extracted manually afterwards: the dialogues that contain legal language (both terms and/or expressions) and their respective context have been manually annotated, as exemplified in Table 1.

Table 1. An example of the manual annotation of cases

No. of case	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)	Context
1	D. A	la fiscal	(English) It's a flagrant violation of the gag order and a deliberate attempt to subvert the plea agreement the <i>D.A</i> offered my client. (Spanish) Es una flagrante violación del secreto de sumario y un intento deliberado de bloquear el acuerdo que <i>la fiscal</i> le ha ofrecido a mi cliente.

As shown in Table 1, the extracted cases of legal translation are numbered. In each case, the term or phrase in the original speech and its translation in the Spanish dubbing are annotated. The context in which each case appears is also noted both in the SL and in the TL.

A total of 197 cases have been extracted from season one of the TV series under analysis. However, for the sake of brevity and lack of space, only cases that I consider highly representative will be commented on in section 4, which make a total of 17 examples. Data are then classified, according to the translation techniques previously discussed in section 2.1.2.

In order to better analyze these examples, they will be presented as shown in Table 2 in section 4.

Table 2. Model table for each technique applied

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1		

Table 2 is a model that will be used to present and analyze the cases in which each translation technique is applied. It is composed of three columns which correspond to the number of the example, the context of the original version in which the example under analysis appears and the dubbed version. Except for the examples of literal translation, the term or sentence under discussion appears in italics in order to distinguish it from the rest of the sentence.

4. Results

This section presents the results of data classification and analysis.

4.1. Translation techniques applied in *How to Get Away with Murder*

This section presents an analysis of the examples of legal translation in season one of the TV series *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes, et al., 2014-2019) in which the translation techniques discussed in section 2.1.2. are applied. However, not all the translation techniques discussed previously will appear as some of them are not applied in the translation of the season under analysis.

Literal translation is the Some examples of the application of literal translation are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Examples of literal translation

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	Discredit the witnesses.	Desacreditar a los testigos.
2	So to avoid any possible sexual-harassment lawsuit.	Y así evitar cualquier posible demanda por acoso.
3	I only ask because there's something I find strange about the chain of custody on this video.	Solo lo pregunto porque veo algo raro en la cadena de custodia de este vídeo.
4	Two nights ago, when detective Gill acquired the video that supposedly incriminates my client.	Hace dos noches, cuando el inspector Gill recogió el vídeo que supuestamente incrimina a mi cliente.
5	I still see no proof of my client's connection to Edson pharmaceuticals.	Sigo sin ver pruebas de la relación de mi cliente con la farmacéutica Edson.
6	Then I want to hear each of your cases against the defendant.	Después quiero oír vuestros alegatos contra la acusada.

As can be seen in Table 3, the length of the utterances in each example is similar in the SL and the TL, which favors the synchronization of the lips of the characters participating in the dialogues presented. Moreover, as what the quality of the translation concerns, we can see that the meaning of the message is maintained and, as well, no information is lost.

Amplification is another technique that has been applied, whose examples are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Examples of amplification

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	When a police testimony is <i>pivotal</i> to the prosecution's case.	Cuando la declaración policial es <i>la piedra angular</i> de la acusación.
2	To have a history of <i>drug charges</i> .	Tener antecedentes de <i>delitos relacionados con la droga</i> .
3	[...] <i>to subpoena</i> senator Trucco.	[...] <i>enviar una citación</i> al senador Trucco.
4	We would like to file a motion to dismiss <i>the charges against</i> Mrs. Samuels.	Nos gustaría solicitar la desestimación de <i>los cargos que pesan contra</i> la señorita Samuels.
5	The hospital really wants <i>to settle</i> .	El hospital quiere <i>llegar a un acuerdo</i> .

Table 4 shows some examples in which the translator has applied the amplification technique to carry out the translation in order to avoid possible loss of the information in the original message. As can be seen, there are more words used in the TL than originally appear in the SL. There are two main reasons why the translator has chosen to apply this translation technique (1) sometimes, it is not possible to find an equivalent that has the same number of words in the SL and in the TL and (2) the translator wants to give more information about what is being said.

Case 5 exemplifies the first reason for the application of this technique aforementioned. The English verb *to settle* is translated into *llegar a un acuerdo* since it cannot be translated other way without losing the original meaning of the message. On the other hand, amplification technique can be usually applied in the cases in which the translator wants to give more information or clarify what is being said, as in example 2.

Drug charges could have been translated by *cargos por droga*, however, the translator decided to give more information and make it clearer by translating it into *delitos relacionados con la droga* (“charges related to drugs”). Also, examples 1 and 4 could also have been translated following the literal translation strategy and we will have on the one hand *fundamental* instead of *la piedra angular* and on the other hand *los cargos contra* instead of *los cargos que pesan contra*, however, the translator wanted to give extra information as to make it more specific.

Moreover, reduction is also applied which is exemplified in Table 5.

Table 5. Examples of reduction

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	We would like to <i>file a motion</i> to dismiss the charges against Mrs. Samuels.	Nos gustaría <i>solicitar</i> la desestimación de los cargos que pesan contra la señorita Samuels.
2	What's <i>the charge against her?</i>	¿De qué <i>la acusan?</i>
3	It's not <i>against the law.</i>	No es <i>ilegal.</i>

The examples in Table 5 show how the translator has opted for using less words than the original structure. Such reduction does not suggest the loss of meaning in the original message but the overall meaning is condensed by the use of fewer words. Some linguistic elements have disappeared in the translation process so that the translation in the TL sounds more natural, as can be seen in example 3.

Another reason why this technique may be applied is due to the time restrictions imposed by lip-synchronization, as can be seen in example 1.

In example 1, *to file a motion* has been translated into *solicitar* (*to request*), using fewer words than it would be if translated literally (i.e., *presentar una petición*). In the second example the translator could have made a literal translation in order to maintain the structure of the original sentence and said *what charges do they have against her.*

However, the equivalent is well chosen as it does not change the meaning of the original version. What these examples have in common is the fact that the reduction technique has not been applied due to lack of alternatives, which, as we have already seen, are available.

In Table 6, examples of the application of modulation are shown.

Table 6. Examples of modulation

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	I just assumed it was <i>part of the discovery file</i> .	Di por supuesto que era <i>una prueba</i> .
2	We still don't know who <i>falsely testified</i> in David's trial.	Seguimos sin saber quién <i>cometió perjurio</i> en el juicio.
3	Due process – <i>It's relevant to his testimony</i> .	Garantías procesales, <i>ratificará su credibilidad</i> .

As discussed in section 2.1.2., modulation means to maintain the naturalness of the TL by using variants from the original message by changing the point of view. In example 1, the translator has substituted *part of the discovery file* by *una prueba* as it does not sound natural the literal translation, which would be *parte del fichero/expediente de pruebas*. Similarly, *falsely testified* corresponds to *testificó falsamente* which does not sound natural in legal Spanish, therefore, the translator opted for using *cometió perjurio* which literally means to give a false testimony in a trial. Finally, the original sentence in example 3 could have been literally translated into *es relevante para su testimonio*. However, the translator decided to modify a little bit the context and put the focus in the witness credibility (more specific) rather than in the testimony (more general) by the use of the verb *to ratify*.

Table 7 presents some examples of the application of transposition.

Table 7. Examples of transposition

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	They violated <i>their own</i> gag order.	Han violado el secreto de sumario <i>que pidieron</i> .
2	I'm granting the motion and ordering Miss Stangard's body be exhumed <i>immediately</i> .	Voy a aceptar la petición y ordenar que el cuerpo de la señorita Stangard se exhume <i>de inmediato</i> .
3	But <i>as</i> your attorney, I need to put you on the stand.	Pero <i>soy</i> tu abogada y necesito que declares.

Table 7 shows the transposition technique in three different examples. These are the changes that have taken place. Firstly, *their own*, in example 1, is a phrase that has been changed into *que pidieron* which is a subordinate clause. In the second example we can see how the translator has translated the adverb *immediately* by the adverbial locution *de inmediato*. Finally, in example 3, the translator in question has turned the adverb *as* into the verb *soy* which corresponds to the verb *to be*. In the first example the translation is accurate. However, the other two examples could have maintain the grammatical category of the SL being *inmediatamente* rather than *de inmediato* and being *como* instead of *as*. In this way, the two grammatical categories coincide both in the SL and in the TL. Nevertheless, the context and meaning have not been modified so the translation is still faithful to the original speech.

Examples of the application of adaptation are included in Table 8.

Table 8. Examples of adaptation

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	Call the judge and get a <i>hearing</i> for a gag order.	Llama y consigue una <i>vista</i> para pedir secreto de sumario.

The English noun *hearing* applied in the field of law refers to “any proceeding before a judge or other magistrate without a jury in which evidence and/or argument is presented to determine some issue of fact or both issues of fact and law” (Farlex Inc, n.d.). This term has been translated as *vista* which is defined as a public procedural act that takes place before a court, with the intervention of the parties, to prepare or hold a trial, hear an incident, hear the arguments of the parties and propose or hold evidence (DPEJ, n.d.). As can be seen, in legal English the sense used for these particular legal processes is the hearing sense while in legal Spanish the sense of sight is used. Thus, the translator has adapted the specific term of the SL to the corresponding specific term of the TL in question.

Table 9 presents the examples of the description technique.

Table 9. Examples of description

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	We’ve got a walk-in who claims she needs a lawyer for a <i>D.U.I</i> incident.	Hay una mujer que dice que necesita un abogado, <i>la pillarón conduciendo bebida</i> .
2	So, did your doctors report that you had a <i>T.I.A.</i> that day?	Le informaron sus médicos de que había sufrido un <i>ataque isquémico transitorio</i> .

These two examples correspond to the description technique, as an acronym has been substituted for the explanation or description of that acronym. In the first case, *D.U.I* stands for Driving Under the Influence and has been translated as *she got caught driving drunk*. The description has been made due to the lack of the legal Spanish equivalent, therefore, the translator has no alternative but to define what *D.U.I* stands for. On the contrary, the acronym *T.I.A* has been translated as *transient ischemic attack* instead of the corresponding acronym in Spanish *A.I.T*, ergo, the translator has chosen to write the full name of the medical condition in question instead of using the Spanish acronym. This is a different situation from the previous one since the translator has used this strategy despite the fact that there is an equivalent in legal Spanish.

Examples of generalization are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Examples of generalization

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	So, we shouldn't believe her when she told us that you suffered a <i>T.I.A.</i> during your surgery?	¿Entonces no debemos creernos que sufrió una I.T. durante la operación?

This is a clear example of the generalization technique. As has been previously mentioned, the acronym *T.I.A* stands for a transient ischemic attack, which does not exactly correspond to what an *I.T.* is. *I.T.* stands for *incapacidad temporal* in Spanish which means *temporary incapacity* in English. Such incapacity can be either caused by a disease or an accident at work. However, the translator in question uses this term which is more general since a *T.I.A.* is a type of temporary incapacity. but not the other way round. As for the reason why the translator might have chosen to use a more general term rather than the literal translation, this strategy is used to facilitate people's comprehension and understanding of legal texts.

4.2. The application of different translation techniques in different contexts

4.2.1. The same term translated in different ways

The noun *prosecution* in the SL is translated in different ways into the TL due to different contexts, as shown in Table 11.

Table 11. The noun “prosecution” in different contexts

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	Have you ever known them to alter video footage to help the <i>prosecution</i> get a conviction?	¿Ha conocido algún caso en que se hayan retocado imágenes para ayudar a <i>la fiscalía</i> para conseguir una condena?
2	When the police testimony is pivotal to the <i>prosecution's case</i> .	Cuando la declaración policial es la piedra angular de <i>la acusación</i> .
3	If we could get one of the <i>prosecution's witnesses</i> to mention it on the stand then [...].	Si conseguimos que uno de <i>los testigos de cargo</i> lo mencione en el estrado, entonces [...].

This table shows three different ways the term prosecution has been translated, i.e., *fiscalía*, *acusación* and *de cargo*. In order to see whether the Spanish definition of the terms used coincide with the meaning of the English words I will provide the respective definitions:

Fiscalía: “The public authority in charge of promoting the action of justice in defense of the legality, the rights of citizens and the public interest protected by Law” (Ministerio de Justicia, n.d.).

Acusación: “Procedural party exercised by the prosecutor or the Public Ministry, the injured party of the crime, and also any person in cases of crimes that can be prosecuted by means of popular or public action” (DPEJ, n.d.).

Testigo de cargo: “Witness who testifies against the accused person. A witness who is presented by the prosecutor in order to support the accusation” (DUPJ, n.d.). *De cargo* is a sign that the witness belongs to the prosecution. On the contrary, in legal Spanish there exists the opposite term, *testigo de descargo* which refers to the witness who testify in favor of the defendant in a trial.

Finally, according to the *Legal Dictionary* the term *prosecution* stands for “the government attorney charging and trying the case against a person accused of a crime”.

By analyzing the definitions, it can be concluded that the Spanish terms *fiscalía* and *acusación* have similar meanings and, therefore, can be used without making any distinction. However, the last term *testigo de cargo* only applies for the witnesses and cannot be used to refer to the set of lawyers that belong to the plaintiff in a court case.

4.2.2. Different terms translated into the same word

Apart from cases of the same term being translated into different ways in the TL, cases in which different terms in the SL being translated into the same term in the TL are also found. The Spanish translation *abogado/a* is one of these examples, as shown in Table 12.

Table 12. The noun “abogado/a” in different contexts

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	[...] to practice it in a courtroom like a real <i>lawyer</i> .	[...] ejercer en un juzgado como los <i>abogados</i> de verdad.
2	Your <i>attorney</i> struck down the injunction.	Su <i>abogado</i> consiguió anular la orden judicial.
3	Sargent Joseph? B.W, I’m Rebecca Sutter’s <i>counsel</i> .	Sargento Joseph? Soy B.W. la <i>abogada</i> de R.S.
4	They're gonna assign you some lame <i>public defender</i> , and right now, your case feels really hard to win.	Te pondrán a un <i>abogado de oficio</i> de mierda y ahora mismo es bastante difícil ganar tu juicio.

As can be seen in Table 12, there are many different words that are translated to the same word, which is *abogado/a*. However, in this case, these terms are not really considered synonyms since, depending on the context, a different word will be used. Therefore, the main issue that has to be discussed is the difference between *attorney* and *lawyer*, which are the two main terms that are used along the series under investigation.

On the one hand, a *lawyer* is a professional who has studied law but who does not necessarily defend clients in court, however, he or she can offer legal advice to them. Any person who has a university degree in law can be called a *lawyer*. On the other hand, an *attorney* is a professional who, in addition to having studied law, has also successfully passed the Bar exam. The Bar exam is a test developed by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) which is highly standardized since it is designed to evaluate the knowledge and skills that a *lawyer* or *attorney* has. If they pass this exam they will get the license that will allow them to practice law in their state. Having passed this exam allows an *attorney* to represent and defend clients legally as well as prosecute and defend action in a court of law. The *lawyer* may or may not have passed the Bar exam while the *attorney* has passed it. In conclusion, an *attorney* is always a *lawyer* but this does not

work the other way around since the *attorney* can have more responsibilities than a *lawyer* has (representing people in a trial) (Rivas, 2021). Similarly, a *counsel* is defined as a professional that also gives legal advice. The main difference between this term and the two aforementioned is the fact that a *counsel* usually works for a corporation or organization (*Cambridge Dictionary*, n.d.).

Finally, the term *public defender* is a general term that refers to “a lawyer usually holding public office whose duty is to defend accused persons unable to pay for legal assistance” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, n.d.) So the difference between these two words is whether the client has been able to afford it or has been assigned legal advice by the state because he cannot afford it.

Another example is the Spanish translation of the verb *declarar*, as exemplified in Table 13.

Table 13. The verb “declarar” in different contexts

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	But as your attorney, I need <i>to put you on the stand</i> .	Pero soy tu abogada y necesito que <i>declares</i> .
2	I don't want <i>to take the stand</i> .	No quiero <i>declarar</i> .
3	If what you're saying is true, you will be called on <i>to testify</i> .	Si lo que dices es cierto le llamarán a usted a <i>declarar</i> .

For instance, *to take the stand* in example 2 is defined as “to sit (or stand) in the designated place in a courtroom and give testimony” while the verb *to testify* refers to “to declare or give evidence under oath, especially in court”. According to the definitions that appear in *Collins Dictionary*, *to take the stand* in example 1 and *to testify* in example 3 are synonyms. Nevertheless, the utterance *to put someone on the stand* corresponds to an example of the description technique, already seen, since it does not have an entry in the dictionary. *To put someone on the stand* literally means to make someone to be on the

stand with the purpose of testify. Thus, the first two examples would be considered to be synonyms while the third one is a description.

Table 14 shows the Spanish translation of *prueba* from different terms in the SL.

Table 14. The noun “prueba” in different contexts

No. of example	Original version (English)	Dubbed version (Spanish)
1	Your honor, this email was not part of the <i>discovery</i> file.	Señoría, este email no forma parte del dossier de <i>pruebas</i> .
2	Objection! Lack of <i>foundation</i> .	¡Protesto! No hay <i>pruebas</i> de eso.
3	No more arguments about missed <i>evidence</i> .	No habrá más discusiones sobre <i>pruebas</i> pasadas.
4	Mr. Hortua's testimony proves that this case was built on illegal <i>grounds</i> , including entrapment	La declaración del señor Hortua demuestra que todo se sustenta sobre <i>pruebas</i> ilegales y que se indujo a cometer un delito
5	I still see no <i>proof</i> of my client 's connection to Edson pharmaceuticals	Sigo sin ver <i>pruebas</i> de la relación de mi cliente con la farmacéutica Edson.

The table above shows different English terms that have been translated into the same Spanish term *prueba*. Although they seem to be synonyms, these words have different meanings and different contexts in which they are used. As for the definitions of this words, the dictionary used is the *Legal Dictionary* in all the terms except for *ground* whose definition is given by the *FindLaw Legal Dictionary*.

Discovery: “The entire efforts of a party to a lawsuit and his/her/its attorney to obtain information before trial through demands for production of documents, depositions

of parties and potential witnesses, written interrogatories (questions and answers written under oath), written requests for admissions [...].”

Foundation: “The qualification of a witness (particularly an expert witness) or a document or other piece of evidence which assures the court of the talent and experience of a witness or the authenticity of the document or article”.

Evidence: “Every type of proof legally presented at trial (allowed by the judge) which is intended to convince the judge and/or jury of alleged facts material to the case. It can conclude oral testimony of witnesses, including experts on technical matters, documents, public records, objects, photographs and depositions (testimony under oath taken before trial)”.

Grounds: “The foundation or basis on which knowledge, belief, or conviction rests”.

Proof: “Confirmation of a fact by evidence. In a trial, proof is what the trier of the fact (jury or judge without a jury) needs to become satisfied that there is “a preponderance of the evidence”.

On the other hand, the Spanish term *prueba* is defined as “procedural action of a party, through the means regulated in the procedural norm, by which it attempts to prove the facts that it invokes as the basis of its claim, with the purpose of proving to the court its evidentiary certainty” (DPEJ, n.d.).

In legal Spanish there is no such differentiation and the word *prueba* is the most commonly used term and the one that includes all the aforementioned concepts. While there are many words in legal English that are used or not depending on the context, in legal Spanish there is the word *prueba* which, although it seems to be closer in meaning to what *evidence* actually signifies, it serves as an equivalent for all the rest of the words.

5. Discussion

As can be seen from the analysis in section 4, not all the translation techniques that have been mentioned in section 2.1.2. are applied in the translation of the first 15 episodes of the *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes, et al., 2014-2019). From the total amount of 17 examples of translations that have been discussed from the series under investigation 6 of them correspond to literal translations, 5 to amplification, then there are 3 strategies that share the total amount of 3 examples each which are reduction,

modulation and transposition. Following the frequency order, the technique the least used that can be found is description, with a total of 2 examples and with only one example we found adaptation and generalization.

The most commonly used technique, accounting for 35% of the cases analyzed, is literal translation, since the series is aimed at an audience that is not familiar with legal terms. Thus, for a better understanding of the audience, the literal translation is used even if it is not the most technical and precise, i.e., the audience's understanding is prioritized over the precision of the terminology.

Moreover, the discourse context has been found to play an important role in the translation of the legal terms or expressions from English into Spanish in the TV series analysis. This is reflected in the fact that the same term in English has been translated into different ways and also that different terms in English have been translated into the term in Spanish.

The noun *prosecution* has been translated into three different terms which are *fiscalía*, *acusación* and *de cargo*. As it has been aforementioned, the reason why the translator chooses a term instead of another depends on the context in which this term appears. In regard to the nouns *fiscalía* and *acusación* since their meanings are similar they can be used instinctively. In this sense, *de cargo* generally does not appear in the same contexts in which the other two words do, since it is a prepositional phrase that accompanies a noun. Hence, *de cargo* is generally associated with the witnesses presented by the prosecution, i.e., *de cargo* often appears following the term *witness* as we could see in example 3 of table 11.

In the case of the word *abogado/a*, we can see that although in the original version there are several terms used, in the dubbed version the terms are in all the cases the same, *abogado/a*. As has been mentioned in the previous section, in legal English there are few terms that are used depending on the context of the sentence being these: *lawyer*, *attorney*, *counsel* and *defender*. The fact that these concepts are translated into *abogado/a* is actually a lack of accuracy displayed by the translator in question. Since the difference between *lawyer* and *attorney* is similar to the difference between *abogado/a* and *letrado/a*, respectively, the translator could have avoided the repetition of the Spanish term *abogado/a* and include the term *letrado/a* which is defined as a legal professional of

the Supreme Court of Justice in charge of studying and assisting in legal matters and preparing draft rulings for the judges of the different chambers (DPEJ, n.d.).

Moving on to the second type of special cases we have the Spanish verb *declarar* that has more than one equivalent in English, being these: *to take the stand*, *to testify*, *to put somebody on the stand*. Strictly speaking, *to take the stand* and *to put somebody on the stand* will not correspond to *declarar* whether the context is changed since the meaning of these two locutions depend directly on the context in which they appear. On the contrary, the meaning of the verb *to testify* is fixed regardless of the context in which it appears and, therefore, is the most accurate of the different options proposed.

According to the translator of the series, *discovery*, *foundation*, *evidence*, *grounds* and *proof* correspond to the Spanish term *prueba*. The reason why these terms are translated the same way is because in legal Spanish there is no such differentiation and the word *prueba* is the most commonly used term and the one that includes all the aforementioned concepts. While there are many words in legal English that are used or not depending on the context, in legal Spanish there is the word *prueba* which, although it seems to be closer in meaning to what *evidence* actually signifies, it serves as an equivalent for all the rest of the words.

Two main points can be drawn from the examples of the different strategies in section 4.1 and the isolated examples in the following section. First, we see that although literal translation is not the most recommended strategy when it comes to specialized translations, it is the most widely used. The conclusion that can be drawn from this data is that the reason why literal translation is used so much is that since it is a series directed to people over 16 and therefore seen by young people, the terminology is not so technical and the viewer's understanding is prioritized over the accuracy of the translation. Secondly, the challenges faced by the translator of this series include the following:

1. To adapt the translation as much as possible to the target audience given the age restriction of the series.
2. To take into account that what is sought after in audiovisual translation, especially in dubbing, is synchronicity.
3. To maintain the faithful to the original message at all times. It is of utmost importance in specialized translations that the message be as accurate and loyal to the original document as possible.

The results of the analysis show that these three main challenges the translator had have been successfully faced. Hence, it is concluded that although there are some exceptions, both the audiovisual synchrony and the sense of the message have been maintained. So the translator has done a good job, according to what has been seen in previous sections.

6. Conclusion

In the present undergraduate thesis, the translation of the legal terms and expression of the first season of the series *How to Get Away with Murder* (Rhimes, et al., 2014-2019) has been analyzed which combines legal translation and audiovisual translation. First, the key concepts related to the present study, namely, legal language and legal translation as well as audiovisual translation have been discussed in order to establish the theoretical framework of the study.

Out of the total of 197 cases that have been extracted, classified and analyzed, 17 selected representative examples have been discussed and evaluated in the present thesis according to the translation techniques applied in them and the context in which they appear.

The results show that, given that the audience of the TV series is the general public and therefore does not necessarily have the expertise in legal issues, their understanding is prioritized over the preciseness of the legal translation. In spite of this, the translator has sought to convey the original message as closely as possibly by applying different translation techniques.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the translator has carried out an overall accurate translation despite the difficulties presented, which mainly reflect on the nature of the target audience and the time constraints involves in dubbing.

References

- ALCARAZ, E., HUGHES, B., & GÓMEZ, A. (2014) *El español jurídico*. Ariel.
- AGOST, R. (1999) *Traducción y doblaje: palabras, voces e imágenes*. Ariel.
- ARANZADI (ed.) (1970). *Repertorio de jurisprudencia. Tomo XXXVII, vol. II*. Ed. Aranzadi, pp. 2.060-2.087. (Sentencias 3.083-3.113).
- BHATIA, K. L. (2010) *Textbook on legal language and legal writing*. Universal Law Publishing.
- CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY (n.d.) “Counsel” Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/counsel>
- CATFORD, J. (1995) *A linguistic theory of translation*. London. Oxford University Press.
- CHAUME, F. (2004) *Synchronization in dubbing: a translational approach*. In Orero, P (ed.), *Topics in Audiovisual Translations*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 35-52.
- CHAUME, F. (2013) *The turn of audiovisual translation: New audiences and new technologies*. *Translation Spaces* 2, 2013
- DICCIONARIO PANHISPÁNICO DEL ESPAÑOL JURÍDICO (n.d.) “Acusación” Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://dpej.rae.es/lema/acusación>
- DICCIONARIO PANHISPÁNICO DEL ESPAÑOL JURÍDICO (n.d.) “Letrado” Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://dpej.rae.es/lema/letrado-da>
- DICCIONARIO PANHISPÁNICO DEL ESPAÑOL JURÍDICO (n.d.) “Prueba” Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://dpej.rae.es/lema/prueba>
- DICCIONARIO PANHISPÁNICO DEL ESPAÑOL JURÍDICO (n.d.) “Vista” Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://dpej.rae.es/lema/vista>
- DICCIONARIO USUAL DEL PODER JUDICIAL (n.d.) “Testigo de cargo” Retrieved May, 15, 2023 from <https://diccionariusual.poder-judicial.go.cr/index.php//diccionario/48206:testigo-de-cargo>
- FOSTER, M. (1958) *Translation from/in Farsi and English*. Retrieved March, 2023 from <http://www.parasa.ts.com/index.html>
- GALDIA, M. (2013) *Lectures on legal linguistics*. Frankfurt a.M.:P. Lang.
- GÁMEZ, R., & CUÑADO, F. (2019) *Los tipos de textos en la traducción jurídica*. <https://traduccionjuridica.es/los-tipos-de-textos-en-la-traduccion-juridica/>
- GHAZALA, H. (1995) *Translation as problems and solutions* (4th e.) Syria: Dar Elkalem ElArabi.

- GOTTLIEB, H. (1997) *Subtitling: diagonal translation*, in H GOTTLIEB, Subtitles, Translation and Idioms, Copenhagen, University of Copenhagen: PhD Thesis, 107- 134.
- GUNNARSSON, B. L. (1997) *Language for Special Purposes*. In: Tucker, G.R., Corson, D. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Language and Education*, Vol 4. Springer, Dordrecht.
- GUPTA, A. (2020) *The teaching of legal language in Indian law school needs urgent attention*. <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-teaching-of-legal-language-in-indian-law-schools-needs-urgent-attention/>
- FARLEX INC,. (n.d.) “Hearing”. Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/hearing>
- JIN, D., & NIDA, E. A. (2006) *On translation: An expanded edition*. City University of Hong Kong Press.
- JOWERS, R. (2021) *Common words with uncommon legal meanings: “information”*. <https://rebeccajowers.com/category/common-words-with-uncommon-legal-meanings/>
- LAKSHMI, A. (2018) *Legal language, why is it different and difficult?* <https://www.pathlegal.in/Legal-Language-Why-it-is-Different-and-Difficult--blog-2014498>
- LERTOLA, J. (2019) *Audiovisual translation in the foreign language classroom: applications in the teaching of English and other foreign languages*. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED593736.pdf>
- MERRIAM-WEBSTER (n.d.) “Public defender”. Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public%20defender>
- MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA (n.d.) “Fiscalía”. Retrieved May, 15, 2023, from <https://www.administraciondejusticia.gob.es/fiscalia#:~:text=El%20fiscal%20es%20aquella%20autoridad,p%C3%BAblico%20tutelado%20por%20la%20ley.>
- MOLINA, L., HURTADO, A. (2002) *Translation Techniques Revisited: a Dynamic and Functionalist Approach*. *Meta*, 47 (4), pp. 498-512. <http://www.erudit.org/revue/meta/2002/v47/n4/008033ar.pdf>
- NORDQUIST, R. (2020) *Performative verbs. A glossary of grammatical and rhetorical terms*. <https://www.thoughtco.com/performative-verb-1691606>

- ORTS, M. A. (2015) *Legal English and legal Spanish: the role of culture and knowledge in the creation and interpretation of legal texts*. <http://publications.ysu.am/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Matevosyan.pdf>
- PÉREZ, V. (2020) *Características del español jurídico*, <https://vprspanishtranslations.com/es/tag/caracteristicas-del-espanol-juridico/>
- POPOVA, M. (2014) *Teaching a specialized language (business German) – a real challenge for the foreign language teacher*. http://journal.ue-varna.bg/uploads/20151211091410_1582700288566a93e2b38f9.pdf
- RICÓS, A. (1998) *La pasiva con se agentiva en los textos jurídico-administrativos: su incidencia pragmática*. https://rua.ua.es/dspace/bitstream/10045/6336/1/ELUA_12_12.pdf
- RIVAS, M. (2021) *What is the difference between a lawyer and an attorney?* July, 2021. <https://therivaslawgroup.com/what-is-the-difference-between-a-lawyer-and-an-attorney/>
- ŠARČEVIĆ, S. (1997) *New approach to legal translation*. The Hague, Netherlands: Kluwer Law International.
- VINAY, J.P., DARBELNET, J. (1995) *Comparative stylistics of French and English, a methodology of translation*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1995.
- VOLF, P. (2020) *Translation techniques as a method for describing the results and classifying the types of translation solutions*. *Applied Translation*, 14(2), 1-7. <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/343979-translation-techniques-as-a-method-for-d-363849d9.pdf>
- WILLIAMS, C. (2004) *Legal English and plain language: an introduction*. https://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/sites/default/files/williams_2004_legal_english_and_plain_language-libre_1.pdf
- WIREDU, J. F. (2016) *The complex sentence in legal English: A study of law reports*. *Journal of Literature, Languages and Linguistics*, Vol. 22, 2016. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234693241.pdf>
- WURYANTORO, A., et al. (2014) *Translation techniques on Indonesian sworn translator's legal texts translation*. *English Teaching Journal*, Vol. 2 No. 2, December 2014.